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Department of Zoology, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.

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Recapture of a Non-breeding Boreal Owl Two Years Later

THOMAS W. CARPENTER

On 22 April 1984, while mist-netting owls at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County, Michigan, I recaptured a Boreal Owl (Aegolius funereus) that was banded at this location by Warren A. Lamb on 3 May 1982. There are no known summer or breeding records for this species in Michigan, though fair numbers are captured at Whitefish Point during most springs (Payne 1983). Thus, this bird was apparently moving north during both years it was captured following a southward movement during the preceding fall or winter.

Periodic southward movements of the Boreal Owl have received previous attention (Anweiler 1960; Bent 1961; Mysterud 1970; Catling 1972; Evans and Rosenfield 1977). However, to my knowledge this is the first time a Boreal Owl has been recaptured in North America in a subsequent year following a southward movement. Recapture in a subsequent year of owls banded during migration is not a common occurrence as shown by the low recapture rate of the highly migratory Northern Sawwhet Owl, Aegolius acadicus (Woodford 1959).

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- Zoology Department, Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Present address: 3646 S. John Hix, Wayne, MI 48184.

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